Claims

1. A method for the propagation of lytic organisms which comprises the infection of the cells of a stable cell line within a hollow fibre bioreactor with a lytic organism, wherein after said infection, said organism multiplies within the cells and can be harvested, characterised in that the cell line can survive for at least ten days after said infection.

2. The method of claim 1 which further comprises the step of harvesting the lytic organism, by removal of said organism from the bioreactor.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the lytic organism contains nucleic acid encoding a protein of interest, and after said infection this protein is expressed by the cells and can be harvested.

4. The method of claim 3 which further comprises the step of harvesting the protein of interest by removal of said protein from the bioreactor.

5. A method according to any preceeding claim, characterised in that the cell line can survive for at least 15 days after infection.

6. A method according to any preceeding claim, characterised in that the cell line can survive for at least 20 days after infection.

7. A method according to any preceeding claim, wherein after harvest, the cell line is allowed to re-populate the bioreactor, and at least one subsequent harvest may be taken, with the cell line being able to re-populate the bioreactor after each harvest.

8. A method according to claim 7 wherein at least 2 subsequent harvests may be taken.

9. A method according to claim 7 wherein at least 3 subsequent harvests may be taken.

10. A method according to any one of the preceeding claims wherein said lytic organism is a virus.

11. A method according to claim 10 wherein said virus is a baculovirus.

12. A method according to claim 10 wherein said virus is an adenovirus.

13. A method for studying the effects of molecules on a lytic organism which comprises the infection of the cells of a stable cell line within a hollow fibre bioreactor, wherein after said infection, varying amounts of said molecules may be added, and their effects on the lytic organism measured, characterised in that said cell line can survive for at least ten days after infection.

14. An apparatus for carrying out the method according to any preceeding claim comprising a hollow fibre bioreactor containing a stable cell line capable of surviving for at least ten days after infection of the cells of said cell line with a lytic organism.